The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 5, NO. 38. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915. WHOLE NO. 246.

UNIONS AMERICANIZE SAYS CHAIRMAN WALSH

Washington, Dec. 18.—Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the committee on industrial relations, in a letter to the executive committee of the National Americanization committee, recently organized in New York at the home of Mrs. Vincent Astor, calls upon that organization to recommend trade unionism as the greatest aid to aliens.

Included in the membership of the New York organization is Chairman Trumbull of the executive committee of the Chesapeake & Ohio railway; Mrs. Vincent Astor, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt and President Sproule of the Southern Pacific Railroad company.

Mr. Walsh urges the Americanization committee "to use every agency of publicity and persuasion at your command" to impress upon newly-arrived immigrants the advantages of at once joining existing labor unions, or, where unions do not exist, of forming unions of their own.

"I need not point out to you the great value of the labor unions as an Americanizing influence, continues Chairman Walsh. 'Leading economists and sociologists have pointed out that the success of the unions as agencies of Americanization is accepted fact. No other institution can compare with them in instilling into immigrants the spirit of America and developing in them the principle of self-government. No other American institution so embodies the soul of America as the spirit of democracy.

"Nor is it necessary to point out the un-American and dangerous subservience, amounting to serfdom, that exists in immigrant industrial populations employed by the steel and other industries that deny employees the right to organize. As an Americanization committee you will, of course, agree that no amount of welfare work, by which favors are handed down from above, can remove the menace to American institutions that lies in industrial populations that are not economically subservient and that must depend for their well-being upon the generous exercise of arbitrary power by a superior class."

FEDERAL CONVICT LABOR.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Nearly 2,000 federal prisoners will be idle at the Leavenworth and Atlanta penitentiaries unless some plan of employment for them is devised, says Attorney General Gregory in his annual report. It is necessary, he declares, that legislation be passed to meet this condition, and he promises to send information to congress relating to the manufacture of supplies for the government.

"I shall also urge as part of the plan," said the attorney general, "the payment monthly to the families of prisoners of a portion of the amount earned by prison labor, and, as a single men the retention of some portion of these earnings to be paid over to them after their release from confinement."

The attorney general said that a furniture factory is in consideration for the Leavenworth penitentiary where ultimately all furniture needed by the federal government may be made. A textile mill and twine plant in Atlanta for making mail bags, blankets and cotton duck for tents is being completed.

STRIKERS MAY PICKET.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 18.—Packing in his city called on Circuit Court Judge Hervey to issue an injunction against striking butchers, but the court, however, believes these workers have rights and toned down the injunction so that it permits pickets to tell their story in a peaceful manner. The butchers are asking for wage increases.

San Jose, Dec. 18.—Because the superior court has decided that peaceful picketing is legal, striking cooks and waiters have signed agreements with the restaurants here who have abandoned the fight against them. The court cited numerous decisions by the state supreme court to support its opinion.

FOOD EXPORTS DOUBLED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The quantity of foodstuffs sent by the United States to feed the rest of the world during the first 10 months of this year was more than double that in the same period of 1914. Statistics of the department of commerce show the value of foodstuffs exported during the 10 months was almost $670,000,000, compared with $318,000,000 last year. The total of wheat, corn and oats was 318,000,000 bushels, 18,000,000 barrels of flour, and 420,000 pounds of bacon.

44-HOUR WEEK FOR WIRE MEN.

Boston, Dec. 18.—The 44-hour week and new wage scales for operators in the New England Telephone company were considered at the annual conference of the Northern district council of the brotherhood of electrical workers. Delegates reported that trade unionism was never stronger than ever among workers in this calling.

VILLAGES NOT FORCED TO BUY.

Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 18.—The state supreme court has ruled that the new state constitution has nullified an old statute which made it compulsory for villages to first offer to buy the plant of any private corporation before it could establish a municipal plant of the same character. The decision means that villages can now enter into competition with these plants.

FACTORIES WORK TEN HOURS.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 18.—Many of the furniture factories in this city have abandoned the 9-hour day and are working 10 hours at the same wage rates. Organization among these workers is practically at a standstill, as far as effectiveness is concerned, and wages are at the lowest ebb.

MUSICIANS UNITE.

Baltimore, Dec. 18.—A Musicians' union, dual to the bona fide organization, has surrendered its charter and joined the ranks of affiliation with the American Federation of Musicians. The dual body has been in existence several years and has caused much friction.

SHIP AWARDS TO NAVY.

Washington, Dec. 18.—The navy department has awarded contracts for the construction of the two battleships authorized by the last congress to the New York and Mare Island government yards. Bids of all private builders for these ships exceeded the limit of cost fixed by congress.

WORKMEN'S ACT FOES CAN'T DODGE QUERIES

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 18.—The state workmen's compensation board has practical opponents of the state compensation and liability law, passed by the last legislature. These opponents have been insisting that if the law passed employers, to escape liability, would give preference to young men, single men and aliens in order to avoid the heavier liabilities which would be entailed in case of injury to men in other classes.

The state compensation board, however, fears that this is exactly what opponents of the law will do, and it has prepared the following questions for employers who ask for exemption of state liability on the ground that they will carry their own insurance:

"Will it be your policy to discriminate against an employe with a large family in favor of an unmarried employe or an employe with a small family?

"Will you discriminate against an American in favor of an alien employe?"

Employers of fair mind, of course, will answer each query in the negative. And employers generally will have to answer the same, for they are caught "in the middle."

If they answer otherwise, or evade answering, the compensation board can refuse them exemption. If they insure in the state fund the premium which each company they will gain nothing by discrimination, for the rates are the same in all cases and take no account of possible discrimination for age or any other reason. If any employer accuses the compensation board of nondiscrimination and then doesn't live up to his pledge, the board has the right to revoke his exemption.

HOD CARRIERS RAISE WAGES.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 18.—Hod carriers employed by brick contractors have established new wage scales as follows: During the remainder of the scale year, until April 30, 1916, the rate will be 37½ cents per hour for hod carriers and mortar mixers, and 29 cents for wheelers and all other labor not specified; from then until April 30, 1917, the wages will be 36 and 36 cents, respectively, and from then until April 30, 1918, 37½ and 31½ cents per hour.

The agreement with the plasterers' contractors runs from June 1, 1916, to May 30, 1917, at 56¼ cents per hour straight, and from the following year 37½ cents per hour.

In both cases the basis is on the eight hour day and Saturday half holiday, with time and one-half for overtime and double time for holidays.

PROFITS IN COPPER.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 18.—Striking employes in the Clifton, Morenci and Metcalf copper camps point to the prosperous condition of this industry, as indicated by the declaration of increased dividends in the eastern financial centers. The Utah Copper company has increased its quarterly rate from $1 to $1.50, while the Butte and Superior Copper company, in addition to its regular quarterly dividend of $2.50, now announces an extra dividend of $7.50, as against the extra dividend of $5 in September.

The Arizona strikers are not even asking for a share of the extraordinary copper prosperity, but merely for the wage rates that are paid in other sections of the state.

MACHINISTS' WAGE LOW.

Cincinnati, Dec. 18.—To counteract employers' claims that striking machinists have returned to work, the Central Labor Union appointed a committee at the request of the district to investigate. Employers' claims were denied, and the unionists presented statistics to show that machinists have worked for 10 and 15 cents an hour less than wages paid in other cities. It was also shown that these workers "have forced upon them every kind of filth and premium system that their so-called systematizers could think of."

VOTING ON WAGE SCALE.

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—Electrical Workers' unions along the Pacific coast are voting on a proposed agreement with the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company, which has been accepted by representatives of both parties.

LATHERS WANT MORE.

Topeka, Kans., Dec. 18.—The Lathers' union has prepared a new wage scale, to take effect March 1. These workers are asking for an increase of one-half cent per yard.

STORES TO CLOSE EARLY.

New Orleans, Dec. 18.—Several of the larger stores in this city have announced an early closing policy. Trade unionists believe the practice is bound to become general.

PICTURE OPERATORS WIN.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 18.—The moving picture operators' strike against several theaters in this city has been adjusted to the satisfaction of these workers.

R. R. WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Cincinnati, Dec. 18.—Big Four railroad telegraphers have raised wages 6 per cent as the result of compromises agreed to between their representatives and the company.

STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 18.—Officers of the state federation of labor have issued a call for the annual convention to be held in this city, beginning Monday, January 10.

STRIKE OF FISHERS ENDS.

Boston, Dec. 18.—The four weeks' strike of fishermen against the Bay State Fishing company has ended with an agreement satisfactory to these workers. Hours of labor are to be reduced.

RETAIL CLERKS ORGANIZING.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 18.—Retail Clerks' union is conducting an organizing campaign which will be continued through the winter months.

AGREE TO OVERTIME.

Springfield, Mass., Dec. 18.—The Knox Motors company has agreed to pay time and a half for overtime and their striking employes have returned to work.

Economic Power Is the Touchstone of Labor's Success

By President Gompers in American Federationist.

The one thing which employers fear in labor organizations is power. Power is necessary to make these organizations effective. Some employers have officially endorsed labor organizations of the "proper kind." Of course the proper kind in their estimation is the carefully expurgated oddities, in which all evidences of power have been carefully repressed. Such institutions would be labor organizations in name only.

Only where organizations have power do they have effective means to bringing betterment into the lives of their members. Power cannot exist unless there exist the sinews and munitions for sustained insistence upon demands and rights. The power of an organization is related in a very vital sense to membership and to the dues paid into the union treasury.

Those organizations which are vigorous and powerful to promote the well-being of their members are invariably those organizations which have established high dues. Union funds constitute a kind of insurance for those who constitute them. Considered from a business viewpoint, dues are no investment that will give so high a rate of returns as union dues.

When the resources of an organization are ample, wages movements may be undertaken with a spirit of confidence and independence that has a helpful reaction upon recalcitrant employers.

Resources facilitate the extension of organization which in turn increases the power of the organization through increasing solidarity. Ample resources put confidence into the unorganized to incur risks resulting from enlistment in the ranks of the organized. Union resources protect the workers from wage reductions and poorer conditions or the necessity to accept the power of self-defense constitutes a real argument against injury or provocation of contest.

A low-dues paying policy is not a profitable or a wise policy for organized labor. Indeed it would be good business sense to increase dues with every wage increase—the wage increase was due to organization and stronger organization will in turn bring other wage increases.

As union dues are increased more benefits can be made increasingly helpful and can be extended in variety. These benefits can be managed by the organizations more cheaply and more satisfactorily than similar insurance can be furnished by state or private agencies. Insuring the unions' control over these benefits removes all doubt of such assistance in industrial disputes.

Labor organizations embody an ideal but that ideal must rest upon a practical basis if the ideal is to become reality. The practical resources to make any ideal reality depend in some degree upon the financial resources at command. The question of higher dues is one of fundamental importance to all workers. It is a matter that must not be pushed aside. It is a matter that should be given most careful and wise consideration. It is fundamentally important that the dues paid in a large measure determine the power which the organization exercises for the cause of human welfare.

UNORGANIZED'S FEARFUL PRICE

Indianapolis, Dec. 18.—Unorganized West Virginia miners are paying fearful price for their non-unionism, it is said says J. W. Brown, writing in the United Mine Workers' Journal. The unionist presents the following figures to prove the connection between nonunionism and fatalities:

"The records of the public service commission for the year ending June 30, 1914, show 615 miners killed in that state outright, 21 so crippled that they can never work in the mines, 66 who are otherwise disabled for life, and 1,170 minor accidents which were serious enough to come under the observation of the public service commission. This is about one man killed for every 90,000 tons of coal dug, to say nothing of the 19,726 others who are hurt 25 men killed every year for every 2,000 men working in the mines, which is about four times as many as are killed in the mines of Pennsylvania, Illinois or Ohio.

"There is a direct connection between this wanton sacrifice of human life and the unorganized conditions of the miners themselves—no union and no check upon greed and for unbridled competition the miners pay the dearest.

"Men Antonio tells what these miners are will shirk every responsibility no matter how much danger they incur, hence the explosions."

BAD TRACKS CAUSE WRECKS.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Bad tracks is responsible for an increased number of railroad wrecks, the interstate commerce commission in its annual report says. It is declared that track conditions which menace life and property while the Butte and Superior Copper company, in addition to its regular quarterly dividend of $7.50, now announces an extra dividend of $7.50, as against the extra dividend of $5 in September.

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LENNON OFFERS UNITY PLAN

Chicago, Dec. 18.—John Lennon, treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, has issued a unity of organization plan for the consideration of members of the three international unions of journeymen tailors, garment workers and ladies' garment workers.

Writing in the official journal of journeymen Tailors' union, the A. F. of L. treasurer declares that he is opposed to dual organization are "deliberate and considered representations of all my views and writings on the subject."

The evidence of my attitude on this question, he says, "can be established by the fact that four times, on my recommendation, the question of organization was legally and properly submitted to the members of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America, and each time rejected."

For the fifth time this unionist presents a plan which includes the following features:

The three internationals create a joint conference committee to meet at least four times each year to consider ways and means to jointly promote the interests of the interested workers.

That all questions must receive a unanimous vote, or, in the event of the representatives of one union can veto action.

That in cases where only one international has a local, this local may ask the joint conference committee to have its case brought before the three internationals.

Jurisdiction questions shall be referred to a sub-committee with power to "endeavor by persuasive methods to settle the question."

That strikes or lockouts members of unions not directly involved shall not be sanctioned by these.

The conference committee shall have power to extend the scope of its duties when they have been ratified by the three internationals.

Treasurer Lennon submits this plan in the hope that the discussion will develop a friendship and understanding necessary for the formation of one great and powerful organization union "which would guarantee to each section of the trade that safeguarding ment that would protect the interest of all.

INJURED RECEIVE $310,898.

Sacramento, Cal., Dec. 18.—The state industrial accident commission reports that during the past fiscal year there were paid to workmen and their families $310,898 on account of accidents. The total number of accidents was 60,727, and the commission states that employers are becoming advocates of compensation as they understand the workings of this system. These employers are to be found in industrial fields, but include farm, dairy and horticultural work.

TO ENLARGE NAVY YARDS.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels has recommended to congress that five United States navy yards be equipped to build battleships of the largest type. These are the Norfolk, Puget Sound, Mare Island, Philadelphia, and New York yards.

This would double the battleship producing capacity of the country, as there are now only five private yards which can handle such an order.

FACTORY OFFICIALS HELD.

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 18.—A coroner's jury has held officials of the Kelly Paper Box company for action by the grand jury because of the death of 5 persons in the box factory fire October 25. The jury censured city, county and state officials for lack of coöperation in their investigation of the building and enforcement of the laws. Company officials claim they did not know the building was a dangerous, as the authorities had not notified them.

TIMBER PROSPECTS BRIGHT.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 18.—Secretary-Treasurer Lee, of the International Union of Timber Workers, in urging these workers to greater organizing activity, finds this to say in the monthly bulletin of that organization:

"The reports which have been issued by the Pacific coast lumber and shingle interests within the past ten days are the most optimistic that have been sent out during the last several years. A canvass of the large concerns bring forth their unanimous opinion that the timber industry this fall will be more generally prosperous than it has been in the months. The manufacturers claim to be in a position to cut within the next 60 days, while another increase in the prices of red cedar shingles was noted last week. The manufacturers claim to now have complete control of the markets, which heretofore have been dominated by the jobbers and brokers, which that have been idle for one or more years are resuming operations; others are being reopened. Another feature is that no surplus stock at the mills and very little in transit. Last month heavy shipments of red cedar shingles were made to Australia and the Hawaiian Islands. The log supply is light; in fact, a shortage is threatened.

"Lumber prices in the southeastern states also have advanced."

STATE CAN'T BREAK STRIKES.

Philadelphia, Dec. 18.—Officers of the Central Labor Union call attention of local unionists to the law passed by the last legislature which establishes free public employment bureaus, and declare that efforts of these bureaus from assisting in any manner whatsoever, any person, firm, or corporation who has a strike or lockout pay to an industrial dispute, strike or lockout."

The act further provides that "any citizen or employe may file at any public employment office a signed statement with regard to the existence of an industrial dispute, strike or lockout affecting any business or trade."

That the intent of this law may be completely ascertained it is urged to notify officials of any strike or industrial dispute.

SEEK FOUR STATES' AGREEMENT.

Indianapolis, Dec. 18.—President White, of the United Mine Workers' union, has invited mine operators of the central competitive field, comprising Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and western Pennsylvania, to meet with the miners' officials for the purpose of ascertaining if a re-arrangement of the former interstate joint wage agreement is possible. This agreement was abandoned several years ago. About 200,000 workers are involved. They are now maintaining separate agreements with operators in their respective states.

FUR WORKERS SIGN CONTRACT.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 18.—Fur Workers' union has signed a contract with local manufacturers which provides for recognition of the union, seven legal holidays during the year with pay, a 50-hour week with one week which allows the Saturday half-holiday, time and one-half for overtime, abolition of piece work and a minimum weekly wage.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 18.—Newspaper publishers have signed a six years' contract with the Typographical union. The first three years provide for wages to be increased 50 cents a week, and the last three years, $1.50. Rates for machine composition will be also increased.

SWISS ARMY SYSTEM URGED.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the military affairs committee of the senate, has introduced a bill applying the Swiss system of military training and organization to this country. The measure, which has been worked out carefully by experts in the war department.

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CONVENTIONS OF A. F. OF L. ARE NOT GUIDED BY SENTIMENT OR CHANCE

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—The labor movement cannot be carried on in a manner to please the gambler who is always dealing in the element of chance, nor is it guided by sentiment, writes Editor Mullen of the Labor Clarion in an editorial on "Convention Reflections."

This unionist expresses these views from the convention A. F. of L. conducted, held in this city:

"These conventions, unlike many of the subsidiary bodies that go to make up their membership, are little moved by purely sentimental arguments, and, as a rule, determine questions presented in a reasonable fashion and in accordance with established rules of conduct laid down for the purpose of insuring the steady and orderly advancement of the hewers of wood and drawers of water.

"Annually schemes are presented to these assemblies that, on the surface, appear to have some merit in them, yet each must run the gauntlet of critical analysis by skilled and experienced men, and as a general thing they meet the fate they deserve and go down in the pit of defeat from which but few of them eyer return for a second trial.

"Then, too, propositions are presented in a crude and unworkable state which receive the attention of the delegates and are molded into form for practical instruments of progress, either at once, or after long, careful and intelligent consideration.

"These are not accepted simply because they are branded new and progressive by their authors, nor are they rejected because of such branding. Every question, no matter how Utopian it may appear to the superficial observer, is given careful consideration, and if it be worthy it will not stand or fall upon merit alone. That is, it must be workable, practical, in the hope of improvement without bringing in new hurtful effects that overbalance the good it might do.

"That this is a wise manner of conducting the movement no intelligent person will dispute. The labor movement cannot be carried on in a manner to please the gambler who is always dealing in the element of chance. The world's decision has long been adverse to gambling and these conventions abide by that verdict.

"There is, perhaps, no forum of any consequence in the world where a more free and broad discussion is permitted than in these conventions. As long as a delegate confines himself to the reasonable requirements of parliamentary usage he may discuss his subject in his own way without interference or the question of any of his colleagues. The institution itself is thoroughly democratic even if an occasional few among the delegates are not.

"The delegates in convention assembled can quarrel and scramble and struggle for the adoption of their ideas and go out on the industrial field the day after adjournment and present a united front to the oppressors of labor. There is no room for sentiment in the conventions. They are not adjourned to gambling and these conventions abide by that verdict.

NO SCHOOLS, LOW WAGES IS RULE IN PORTO RICO

San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 18.—"The island has had more than $15,000,000 of profit, and alas! the poor children have not schools, even books for the schools," writes Santiago Iglesias, A. F. of L. organizer and editor of Justicia, official newspaper of Porto Rican trade unionists.

"The sugar corporations are actually owned by a body of absentee landlords of practically all their work is done upon the workers merely as cheap labor and stand in the way of any effort to educate them or improve their status," continues Iglesias.

"These men's being helped by the government and by a large number of politicians and exploiters of the people.

"The island of Porto Rico is not now governed practically by the influential institutions of the United States but by a reactionary element of the American sugar type that looks upon the workingmen as inferior beings.

"There have been committed against the Porto Rican people acts that were unknown to have existed before.

"During onslaughts have been attempted and carried out against the aspirations of the people.

"The corporations have been given all the power that could be given to them to exploit the mass of laborers.

"All sort of plots and plans and combinations are being contrived against the poor laboring people of the rural districts. They are being despoiled of their land, they are abjectly down trodden, beaten, villified and thrown into prison.

"We saw men working on the sugar plantations cutting cane, working and 10 hours a day, for 40 to 45 cents wages. Several of the sugar refineries have a system of truck or company stores, or, as we labor men have designated them, 'pluckme stores,' where the laborers may pay this 40 or 45 cents a day with little checks for 15 or 16 hours' work, which checks, by the way, are redeemable only at the company's store."

UNIONISTS CALL ON PRESIDENT.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary of Labor Wilson, together with President Gompers and Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L., and President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union, called on President Wilson last Wednesday and presented the chief executive a framed series of pictures emblematic of the seamen's successful fight for relief and which were prepared by the seamen's union. A copy has also been presented the American Federation of Labor.

The visiting trade union officials suggested to President Wilson that he include among the organized labor in commissions intended to inquire into questions affecting the people's welfare. The president thanked the unionists for this suggestion.

MUST KNOW EVERYTHING.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The civil service commission recently held an examination for the position of "janitor in charge of steam boilers" and among the questions asked applicants he had in making repairs to boilers, engines, pumps, piping, plumbing, electric wiring, electric motor, brick work, plaster, painting, carpenter work, tinning and cabinet work.

Some members of the Steam and Operating Engineers' union were in the room when the commission met. It had overlooked a few trades, but the majority of this local decided that a mistake had been made and the civil service officials wasting the people's money trying to find a 12-in-1 craftsman.

FAVORS JUDGES FOR LIFE.

Indianapolis, Dec. 18.—President Cutting of the Chicago Bar association told members of the local bar association that Judges should be elected for life. The Chicago man painted this beautiful picture:

"The ideal judge fears neither power or wealth or station. He seeks no political preferment. He knows the merits of political power are behind him and only the pursuit of justice for all men lies within the scope of his ambition."

RAILROAD SIGNS AGREEMENT.

New York, Dec. 18.—The New York, Ontario and Western railway has signed a federated agreement with its mechanics and helpers. Pay for overtime and rates for apprentices is agreed to, as are methods for adjusting disputes. No employe can be discharged without just cause, and if he is found, after investigation, that a worker has been dismissed without sufficient reason he shall be reinstated with full pay for all time lost.

EVILS OF BONUS SYSTEM.

Boston, Dec. 18.—At the state convention of the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers it was reported that engineers employed by the Boston elevated have worked 48 hours on a stretch in an effort to take advantage of the bonus system.

ACCEPT COMPENSATION LAW.

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Chicago, Dec. 18.—Blacksmiths employed by the Morgan Gardner Machinery company now receive 46 cents an hour, and helpers, 34 cents. The rates are increases of a fraction less than 2 cents an hour.

WANT UNION CONDITIONS.

San Francisco, Dec. 18.—Hoisting Engineers' union requests the central body to urge city authorities to establish union wages and working conditions in building the Hetch-Hetchy water system.

BIG BUSINESS FAVORS FLOOD OF IMMIGRANTS

Washington, Dec. 18.—Numerous lobbyists are at the national capital prepared to oppose legislation introduced to restrict immigration, and which has already been introduced by Congressman Burnett.

For years the American Federation of Labor and farmers' organizations have urged congress to adopt a literacy test to check the hordes of illiterates that are ignorted by big business for purposes of exploitation. This legislation has been passed three times by congress, but the presidential veto, last year, the house of representatives came within four votes of passing the measure, despite the chief executive's disapproval. A two-thirds vote was necessary, and congress, by a vote of 261 to 136 again declared its opposition to the policy of steamship companies, trusts and combines.

During the last congress one of the literacy test's leading opponents was the National Civic Federation league, which announced, in one of its circulars:

"We have sent to Washington a number of delegations composed of members of various nationalities, but the delegates were not really chosen by bodies of their own nationality."

Immigration will be given the session of President Gompers, last January, expose the league's methods and the steamship companies' agents and other trusts contributed large sums to thwart the will expressed in the senate and the house of representatives, and their committees, have succeeded in defeating a score of declarations during the past 18 years.

One of the documents possessed by President Gompers is a letter from Max A. Sekely contracted with N. Behar, an editor of the National Liberal Immigration league "to raise financial support" for that organization. For this service he was to pay this editor 45 cents a day with little checks for 15 or 16 hours' work, which checks, by the way, are redeemable only at the company's store."

UNIONISTS CALL ON PRESIDENT.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary of Labor Wilson, together with President Gompers and Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L., and President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union, called on President Wilson last Wednesday and presented the chief executive a framed series of pictures emblematic of the seamen's successful fight for relief and which were prepared by the seamen's union. A copy has also been presented the American Federation of Labor.

The visiting trade union officials suggested to President Wilson that he include among the organized labor in commissions intended to inquire into questions affecting the people's welfare. The president thanked the unionists for this suggestion.

MUST KNOW EVERYTHING.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 18.—The civil service commission recently held an examination for the position of "janitor in charge of steam boilers" and among the questions asked applicants he had in making repairs to boilers, engines, pumps, piping, plumbing, electric wiring, electric motor, brick work, plaster, painting, carpenter work, tinning and cabinet work.

Some members of the Steam and Operating Engineers' union were in the room when the commission met. It had overlooked a few trades, but the majority of this local decided that a mistake had been made and the civil service officials wasting the people's money trying to find a 12-in-1 craftsman.

FAVORS JUDGES FOR LIFE.

Indianapolis, Dec. 18.—President Cutting of the Chicago Bar association told members of the local bar association that Judges should be elected for life. The Chicago man painted this beautiful picture:

"The ideal judge fears neither power or wealth or station. He seeks no political preferment. He knows the merits of political power are behind him and only the pursuit of justice for all men lies within the scope of his ambition."

RAILROAD SIGNS AGREEMENT.

New York, Dec. 18.—The New York, Ontario and Western railway has signed a federated agreement with its mechanics and helpers. Pay for overtime and rates for apprentices is agreed to, as are methods for adjusting disputes. No employe can be discharged without just cause, and if he is found, after investigation, that a worker has been dismissed without sufficient reason he shall be reinstated with full pay for all time lost.

EVILS OF BONUS SYSTEM.

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LUMBER MEN VIOLATE LAW.

Colebrook, N. H., Dec. 18.—Representatives of the U. S. federal department of labor are in this vicinity investigating violations of the immigration contract law. Several lumber concerns are charged with violating these statutes.

IRON MOLDERS STRIKE.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 18.—In an effort to establish the eight-hour day in this vicinity, about 1,500 iron molders are on strike.